

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00

AID-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 IGA-01 SAM-01

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P R 131140Z DEC 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7196
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
EUCOM
CINCUSAFE
USMISSION NATO
USIA WASHDC

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO MILITARY AID CUT-OFF

REF: ANKARA 9636

1. THE TURKISH PRESS CONTINUED TO REACT STRONGLY FRIDAY
(DECEMBER 13) TO THE SUSPENSION OF U.S. MILITARY AID AND TO
CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS INDICATING THAT THE CUT-OFF WOULD
BE PROLONGED. ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM PRESS
COMMENT CALLED FOR A REASSESSMENT OF TURKEY'S FOREIGN AND
DEFENSE POLICIES. IN CONTRAST STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS AND
POLITICIANS WERE RELATIVELY MUTED AND CAUTIOUS.

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2. IN NEWS STORIES, RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTED THAT

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SEMIH AKBIL TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS THAT AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO TURKEY WAS NO FAVOR, QUOTING SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF. "NO MATTER WHICH DIRECTION DEVELOPMENTS MAY TAKE, IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR TURKEY TO MAKE COMPROMISES ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION," AKBIL SAID.

3. SEVERAL FRIDAY PAPERS, AS WELL AS TELEVISION NEWS THURSDAY NIGHT, REPORTED AN AIRPORT STATEMENT ON THE AID CUT OFF MADE BY DEFENSE MINISTER ILHAMI SANCAR ON HIS RETURN FROM BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, SANCAR SAID "THE SUSPENSION OF AID IS NOT A MATTER OF DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME. EXAMINATION OF THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE. WE EXPECT THE PROBLEM WILL BE TOTALLY ELIMINATED BY THEN."

4. SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO REPORTED FRIDAY A BRIEF STATEMENT BY JUSTICE PARTY LEADER SULEYMAN DEMIREL WHO DECLARED THAT AN AID CUT-OFF WOULD HURT THE UNITED STATES.

5. IN A WASHINGTON DATELINED STORY HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, CITED "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" TO ASSERT THAT TURKEY WILL BE HURT LESS BY THE AID CUT-OFF THAN THE U.S. AND THAT U.S. LEGISLATORS, WHO ACTED IN AN EFFORT TO PLEASE THE U.S. GREEK MINORITY, ARE NOW ANXIOUS ABOUT TURKISH REACTION.

6. IN OTHER COVERAGE, ADALET, THE SMALL-CIRCULATION DAILY OF THE CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, USED A BANNER HEADLINE TO DECLARE THAT THE AID CUT-OFF WAS THE WORK OF GREEK-AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN.

7. EDIOTRIAL COMMENT IN FRIDAY EDITIONS WAS UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF THE AID-CUT. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, HURRIYET NOTED THAT FRANCE AND GREECE HAVE ALREADY WITHDRAWN FROM THE MILITARY STRUCTURE OF NATO AND THAT PORTUGAL MAY ALSO MAKE SUCH A MOVE. IT ASKS WHETHER TURKEY SHOULD ALSO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION IN THE ALLIANCE IN LIGHT OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE TURKEY AND WHETHER "WE ARE GOING TO GIVE THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS THE LESSON
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THEY DESERVE."

8. LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET IN AS UNSIGNED EDITORIAL DECLARED THAT AMERICA'S MAIN INTEREST WAS TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENT, "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TURKEY WILL HAVE TO REVISE AND REEVALUATE HER FOREIGN POLICIES...IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR TURKEY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS WITH RESPECT

TO THE CYPRUS ISSUED."

9. IN OTHER COMMENT, YASAR AYSEV, WRITING IN THE RPP-ORIENTED BARIS, DECLARED THAT "TURKEY WILL NOT RETREAT AN INCH WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS AND POPPY PLANTATION JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE CONTINUATION OF AMERICAN AID." AYSEV DECLARED THAT THE AID DECISION INDICATED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT INORDINATELY CONCERNED WITH WEAKENING NATO'S DEFENSES AND ASKED WHY, IN LIGHT OF THIS, TURKEY SHOULD BE CONCERNED. "TURKEY IS CAPABLE ENOUGH OF MAINTAINING ITS OWN DEFENSE THROUGH ITS OWN RESOURCES,-AYSEV SAID.

10. ANOTHER COLUMIST NECATI ZINCIRKIRAN, WRITING IN GUN-AYDIN SAID THAT THE AID CUT-OFF HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT GREECE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO AMERICAN POLITICIANS THAN TURKEY. ZINCIRKIRAN, ASSERTING THAT IN RECENT YEARS AMERICAN AID HAS BEEN "NOTHING BUT CHICKEN FEED," DECLARED THAT TURKEY NEED NOT BE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH ITS LOSS. BERGUS

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